

September

Magic Lantern Society
United States and Canada

NEWS 2018



Slide of the Good Old Days!

LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects



Singing cowboys in Yosemite Valley featured in a hand-colored glass lantern slide from the museum collection (YOSE 49241)

<https://www.nps.gov/yose/blogs/curious-matters-the-hocus-pocus-history-of-glass-lantern-photography.htm>

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The Magic Lantern Goes to the Circus

From Dick Moore

Over many years of collecting lantern slides I have amassed a large collection of slides related to the circus, covering the US, UK and France. The collection includes early hand painted images, as well as slides that are rare photographs of the early days of the circus, dating from the mid-19th to the early 20th century. Many have been hand colored, providing vivid representation of the history of the circus. The collection also includes numerous mechanical slides depicting famous circus acts and performers, which are incorporated into my Cirque de Magique shows.

I have had the opportunity over the past several years to present parts of this circus collection, not only to the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, but as a keynote presenter to the World Circus Summit, to several national sessions of the Circus Historical Society, the Circus Fans Association, The Barnum Museum, as well as other special Circus related events and programs.

Recognition for these shows, the breadth of the collection, and the presentation of the extensive historical information regarding each view continues to lead to new opportunities to share these images.

This year is the 250th anniversary of the birth of the "Modern Circus" started by Capt. Phillip Astley in 1768 at Half Penny Hatch, London. To honor this anniversary, individuals from all aspects of circus in the UK and Ireland created "Circus250" which has developed and is coordinating over 350 circus related events and exhibitions thought this anniversary year.



One of the more exciting and unique events was a play "Astley's Astounding Adventures" presented at the New Vic Theater, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire England. Written by Frazer Flintham and directed by Theresa Heskins the play charts the combined journey of Capt. Astley and the Circus.

I provided mechanical slide images from the early period of the circus that were used as scenery, but in a very unique fashion. The New Vic Theater is a theater in the round, so there was no backdrop for typical projection. What you will find at the following link, is a demonstration of how they combined multiple mechanical moving images into a kaleidoscope effect of circus acts that were then projected down onto the round floor of the theater for one of the major performance scenes.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16l3awldzNHULEPGn2a2qTDk8q-RmV3qs/view?usp=sharing>

In the United States, National Public Television will present in October a two part series on the history of the circus. One of my slides, from a Barnum and Bailey Parade in Tunbridge Wells, England (See: The Magic Lantern Gazette, Vol 28, # 4, 2016), was selected to be included in this special show. Here is the information regarding the series in October – mark your calendars.

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE "The Circus" will premiere on PBS on October 8 and 9, at 9-11PM ET, 8-10PM CST.

It's a quality documentary on the American circus from 1793-1956. I have had the privilege to meet and work with many of Historian in this special. You will find it to be an informative and exciting presentation of the history and romance of the circus.

As always, I am looking for more images to expand my collection, as well as opportunities to show and share them with others. If you become aware of any slides or opportunities please let me know. I can be reached at:

Dick Moore
203-457-1945
rmoore0438@aol.com

link to the Advertisement for the play that was held at the New Vic Theater in England.

<http://www.newvictheatre.org.uk/productions/astleys-astounding-adventures/>

Optical Pleasures Available

From David Coffeen

david@etesseract.com

Dear David,

Thank you for the latest e-pub -- very informative and I can appreciate a great deal of work to produce!

I don't know whether the following announcement would have an appropriate place therein, but use any of it as you wish:

A Royal kaleidoscope with the bold intertwined cipher of Napoleon III and Empress Eugenie. A full set of "Microcosm" hand-painted magic lantern slides, mid-19th century, showing the diversity of life on earth. One of three known Grimatoscopes presenting continuously animated distortions of the human face.

These are a few of the antique scientific instruments and images presented in our new catalogue, Tesseract issue 107. This is a special issue of OPTICAL PLEASURES, presenting a wide diversity of optical devices for viewing, projecting, synthesizing, deconstructing, and distorting, as well as images enlarged, diminished or metamorphosed. They range from individual viewers to lecture hall apparatus, from microscopic photographic images, to the moon in stereo. We touch on persistence of vision, vibratory forms, standing waves, and the beginnings of animation.

Included are a set of conical anamorphic images and their reconstructing cone, metallochromes of Leopoldo Nobili, a

kaleidoscopic magic lantern, the Megaethoscope of Carlo Ponti, microscopic diamond writing on glass, original Cymatic photographic prints, and many other unusual instruments.

Prices range from \$180 to \$85,000, and everything is fully illustrated, described, and priced.

The printed catalogue can be ordered from us (\$10, or \$35 for four issues), or it can be downloaded for free at <http://www.etesseract.com/C107.pdf>

Dozens of other items are listed on our website <http://www.etesseract.com/>

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www.etesseract.com



As Seen On



Movie Preview Slide From Brian Rogers

Sold for \$1469.99!!

https://www.ebay.com/itm/1927-Metropolis-MOVIE-AD-glass-slide-/401568853039?nordt=true&orig_cvip=true&rt=nc&_trksid=p2047675.m43663.l10137



In this auction is: 1927 "Metropolis" MOVIE AD glass slide (please note the upper right image has some loss)

1927 "Metropolis" MOVIE AD glass slide

Condition: --

Ended: Jul 29, 2018, 9:00AM

Winning bid: **US \$1,469.99** [41 bids]

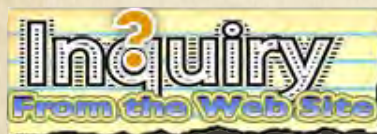
Shipping: **\$6.50** Standard Shipping | [See details](#)

Item location: Marysville, Ohio, United States

Seller information

[pkgeneralstore](#) (18241) ★

100% Positive feedback



From: Elaine

eeashley88@gmail.com

Hello,

I have a "Feine Laterna Magica" trade mark Bavaria with a number of slides. I would appreciate any information you could provide on the year and value?

Thank you so much

Thank you for your quick response. Here are pictures. Any information would help.

From David Evans

Hello Elaine

Could you send me a picture or two of it? Obviously German, there were many manufacturers of especially toy sized lanterns in the Nuremberg area, but your trade mark doesn't immediately ring a bell with me.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans

Hi Elaine

The maker is Bing of Nuremberg. The trade mark BW is for Bing Werke. It is a toy lantern from around 1900. The electrical conversion is later. It would have had an oil lamp and curved chimney, like the one on the box. It looks like the electrical adaptor was supplied by Bing for the purpose, as it also has the trade mark on it. I hope that helps!

Regards

David Evans

Feine Laterna Magica



From Deliaengstrom

deliaengstrom@gmail.com

My father, Richard, had emailed yesterday regarding old glass slides we had found at my grandmother's home.

Thank you for the information on the companies.

We probably have around fifty- sixty or so slides. They are in various conditions and Several are labeled, such as "in the baggage coach ahead", "I'm wearing my heart away for you" and "a hero til the judgment day."

There are several that are not labeled but appear to share the same theme- whether military battles or Scottish clothing.

I have a few questions- Are these "movies", meaning were the slides used to illustrate a story for an audience? Or Were they made for personal use by individuals? Also, is there a current process available to perhaps have images displayed and possibly photographed to be made into a print of sorts? Some of the images are so beautiful, I would love to be able to preserve them if I sell this lot of slides.

Lastly, is there a market for these and what is the best way to sell them?

I'm currently visiting my parents In upstate NY but live outside of Washington DC. I'm trying to decide if I leave the slides here in NY or bring



About Old slides

them back with me.

I really appreciate any info you would like to share! I'll send another email with a few photos I've taken of them with my cell phone.

Regards Delia Engstrom



From David Evans

Hello Delia

Thank you for your email and the pictures.

Answering your points in order:

Yes, the slides were intended for public audiences - the 'educational' ones would have been used in serious lectures, back in the days when most people could not travel to far-off lands, so the shows were rather like TV travelogues. The song slide sets were used as sing-alongs, often in the 'silent' era movie houses, accompanied by a cinema organ or piano, or possibly even a band. They were very popular, and Scott and



Van Altena were one of the leading producers of song slides.

The best way to copy them is by scanning them with a scanner equipped with a transparency facility. There are several suitable models on the market, by firms such as Epson and Canon. You can choose the quality of scan, adjust the tint etc until you get a good likeness of the original. Then it can be printed or whatever you need to do with it.

Song slide sets are quite popular with today's collectors, provided they are in near perfect condition and complete in sets. The educational ones less so unless they are of something really unusual. We could include some of them in our next E-Publication, as some of our members would probably be interested. You could put them on eBay, but would need to scan them well and include a detailed description to maximise the value.

Incidentally, you can often find recordings of the songs on YouTube. I happen to know that 'In the Baggage Coach Ahead' is there in several versions, as I have the same set. We chose the most melodramatic version of the song! I guarantee you will be in tears by the end of it!

Regards

David Evans

Comments About August E-pub

From Wells, Kentwood

Theodore Barber

I saw your inquiry about Ted Barber's dissertation on the Magic Lantern Society email newsletter. Various people over the years have urged him to put it into book form, to no avail. People have had access to it the same way you did, through the NYU library. I suspect he would not want it put online. Two parts of his dissertation were published as journal articles:

- Theodore Barber. 1993. The roots of travel cinema: John L. Stoddard, E. Burton Holmes and the nineteenth-century illustrated travel lecture. *Film History* 5:68-84.
- Theodore Barber. 1989. Phantasmagorical wonders: the magic lantern ghost show in nineteenth-century America. *Film History* 3:73-86.

The 1993 paper was reprinted in *The Magic Lantern Gazette*:

https://library.sdsu.edu/pdf/scua/ML_Gazette/MLGvol05no03.pdf

https://library.sdsu.edu/pdf/scua/ML_Gazette/MLGvol06no01.pdf

The 1989 paper was reprinted as well:

https://library.sdsu.edu/pdf/scua/ML_Gazette/MLGvol02no01.pdf

Kentwood D. Wells
Editor, *The Magic Lantern Gazette*



Store Sides

With regard to lantern slide storage boxes, the type that has a full lid is best for keeping out dust. I previously got some perfect ones from an outfit called Archival Methods that were about 6 inches long, but they no longer have that size. The 10.5 inch ones are fine, but become rather heavy when full. One merchant that sells them is:

<https://www.hollingermetalede.com/modules/store/index.html?dept=22&cat=824&searchname=lantern%20slide&searchid=&searchtype=C&cart=153322867425506930>

They are not cheap--about \$10 each. There are some dealers online in the UK that sell small boxes for British format (3.25 X 3.25 inches) slides.

<https://www.preservationequipment.com/Catalogue/Archival-Storage/Boxes/Lantern-Slide-Box-P999-799-0403>

Lantern Slide Box - Preservation Equipment Ltd
www.preservationequipment.com

Store lantern glass slides, sometimes known as 'Magic' lantern slides, safely in this metal edge acid free box.



Movie Coming Attraction Glass Slides

From posterboss
posterboss@aol.com

David:

Many thanks for taking me in and sharing these past two newsletters.

I'm interested in Movie Coming Attraction glass slides and would like to inquire into the membership if anyone has any that they would like to sell.

What is the best way to do that?

Thanks in advance for your help with my collecting addiction.

Dwight

Hello Dwight

We'll add your request to the next E-Pub - unfortunately the August one is ready to go out, so it will be September now.

Thanks for contacting us.

Regards

David Evans

Magic Lantern For Sale



From: Bernhard Koenig
bksolutionsllc@gmail.com

Dear Society,
I admire your energy and efforts preserving old technology.

We will move in about 4 months and need to reduce collectibles we had stored for many years. I collected cameras 20-30 years ago and stumbled over a projector in Manhattan. We will move to Miami and I fear moist air and hurricanes are not a good location for such projector. Somehow I dislike the idea of selling it at ebay. Do you have interested members? I can send you pictures.

Thank you very much for your fast response. Item appears to be a slide projector from F. Thompson & Importers, Boston Mass.

I have no idea about the value. I would be open for fair offers.

From David Evans

Dear Bernhard

We may well have members who could be interested. Could you send a few pictures and details, including asking price, or it could just be open to offers?

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans

Indeed it does - thank you Bernhard, will hope for the best. Open to offers it shall be. Probably F Thompson was related to A T Thompson of Boston, Mass, makers of the Boston Ideal range of lanterns.

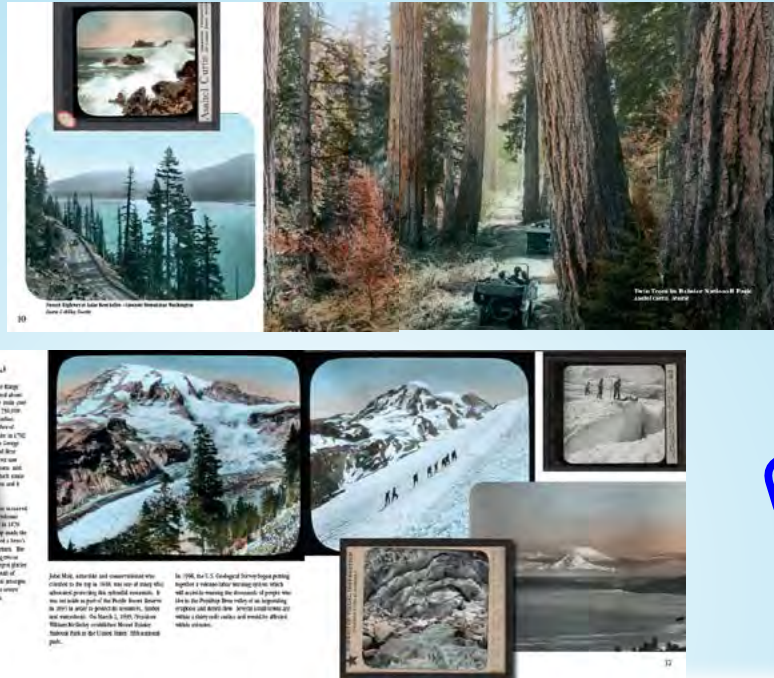
Regards David Evans



Sale of Group NW Books



The Magic Lantern in the Northwest



This book was first printed for the 2012 Convention

The first book of a journey to record the lantern slide usage and the icon slide images of the Northwest.

52 pages saddle stitched second printing

Only 22 copies available

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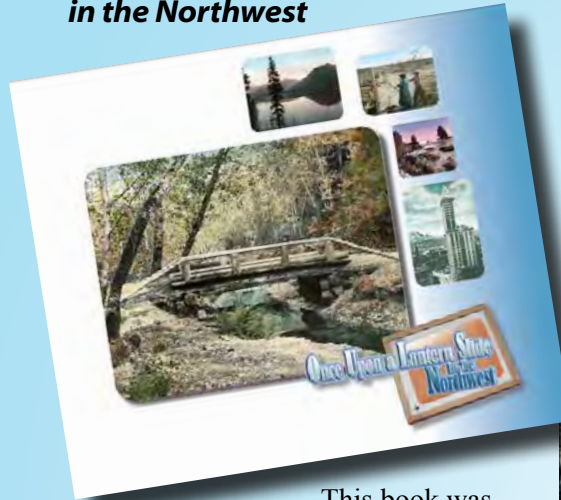
rlasterday@comcast.net

continued next page

Group NW Books Sale Continued



Once Upon a Lantern Slide in the Northwest



This book was
part of the 2018
Convention
registration packet

The second of a series
by Group Northwest
of the Magic Lantern
Society of the US and
Canada

**First Printing
February 2018
64 pages Perfect
bound**



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copies
available**



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Your Chance to buy One or Both
books, limited supply left

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rlasterday@comcast.net

Magic Lantern Slides for Police Use?

From Nichole Ferree

nichole@orangenichole.com

Hello!

A couple of years ago at a flea market, I purchased a small box of heavy glass slides labeled as used by the Boston Police Department. They depict, sometimes in grisly detail, crime victims and scenes. They're very interesting and I've never seen anything like them and can't find any reference to such slides used by police departments anywhere online.

Have you heard of such things?

Kind regards,

Nichole

Hi David,

I'm attaching a few pictures! Be forewarned, they can be a bit graphic. I'm showing the box, a couple of the slides, and a piece of the Boston Police letterhead that's been cut to place between the slides in the box. There are about 12-15 of these slides in the box. Some are labeled like the lightening strike one.

I haven't seen any others like this online and just wondered if it was common for police departments to use these slides in this way. Maybe they're just sitting in dusty backrooms somewhere.

Any info you find out would be greatly appreciated. Let me know if you have questions or need more details about them.

Thanks!

Nichole



From David Evans

Hello Nichole

No, I haven't, but we will put your enquiry in our next monthly E-Publication in the hope that one of our members has. Could you send me a couple of images of them?

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans
Secretary

Hi Nichole

Thank you - most interesting. Thinking logically, there have been Police photographers from shortly after the invention of photography, so it is reasonable to suppose that their work would have been put on lantern slides around the 1890s. Never actually seen any before though. Let us hope more information will come to light.

Regards

David Evans



Glass Slides



**From
James J**
jsacramentojj@gmail.com

I recently bought some glass slide and some are labeled dept of mines and metallurgy Paraguay and Brazil. There is one of a ship in port as well as a man scarring a tree (cutting bark of) anyway is a link that I can upload them and have someone tell me approx value? They look to be early 19th century.. thanks so much Ja

Okay thanks here are a couple of pictures and I will sign up for this news letter, thanks for your quick response.

James



From David Evans

Hello James

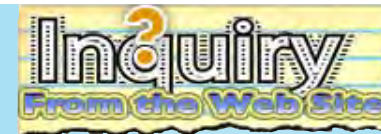
Thank you for contacting us. Sound like interesting historical artefacts - could you send me a couple of pictures? The Society does not do appraisals as such, but you might get an idea by searching eBay. We can put your enquiry in our next E-Publication in case any of our members have any information about them. Though they are probably rare historical images, they probably don't have a great commercial value.

Regards
David Evans

Hi James

Thank you for the images. There is a membership application form on the web site. You will be most welcome as a member!

Regards
David Evans



About W.Watson and Son

From George Matheson

gm@78mountain.com

I have a magic lantern made by W. Watson and Son, 313 High Holland, London. The plate indicates a serial number 286. Can you direct me to a source where I might learn more about it?

From David Evans

Hello George

Thank you for your enquiry.

W Watson was an English optician and scientific instrument maker established at 71 City Road, London, from 1837. The company added photographic equipment to its range of apparatus and from the 1870s became one of the country's leading manufacturers. Watson & Sons stocked lanterns and associated equipment and slides from the 1840s. They moved to 313 High Holborn (not Holland), London, in the 1860s and had a factory close by, where they did their own woodwork, brass work and lens grinding. They remained in business until after the Second World War.

It is possible that more information might be obtained using Google.

Regards
David Evans

A Big Thank You to the following:

contributing to this month's issue.

David Coffeen
Delia Deliaengstrom
Elaine David Evans
Nichole Ferree
James J
Bernhard Koenig
George Matheson
posterboss
Tom Rall Brian Rogers
Kentwood Wells
Gale Wollenberg

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

E-mail Larry



Site With Lots of Magic Lantern Information

From Gale Wollenberg



Also found a website with a picture of another version of the ML/opaque projector.

Histoire des Projections Lumineuses

<http://diaprojection.unblog.fr/>



Photographs of the Colbert fond



Black Out: Silhouettes Then and Now May 11, 2018 - March 10, 2019 From Tom Rall

The National Portrait Gallery has a rather extensive show based on silhouettes, including one extensive exhibit featuring a magic lantern home performance. Unfortunately the link to the show doesn't include it, but the information, and some other examples from it, is here:

<http://npg.si.edu/exhibition/black-out-silhouettes-then-and-now>

Welcome New Members

Bob Atkins

1423 Cottonwood Lane SE
Cullman
AL 35055

Ph: (256) 513-6336

E: bobatkins1941@gmail.com

Retired.

Interested in all lanterns.